

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the claims:

Please add the following new claims 44-46.

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~~44. A brazed ceramic ring sandwich for a lithium ion battery comprising a first ring of ceramic material; a second ring of titanium; a third ring of a titanium alloy of aluminum and vanadium, Ti-6Al-4V; a gold alloy braze with a gold content by weight of more than 50%; wherein said gold alloy braze attaches said second ring of titanium to said first ceramic material; wherein said gold alloy attaches said third ring of titanium alloy to the other edge of the ceramic ring.~~

~~45. The brazed ceramic ring sandwich of claim 44 wherein the ceramic material is selected from the group consisting of aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide and zirconium oxide with 3% yttrium.~~

5 46. The brazed ceramic ring sandwich of claim ~~44~~⁴ wherein said gold alloy braze comprises 96.4% gold, 3.0% nickel and 0.6% titanium.

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